Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01 CIEP-01 L-03 H-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EA-07 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /090 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9412

INFO USDA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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USDA FOR FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SPECIAL COFFEE COUNCIL MEETING

REF: STATE 010493, BOGOTA 513

1. FOLLOWING UP DISCUSSIONS OF JANUARY 14, DRAWING ON INFORAMTION IN STATE 010493, AGATT AND EC/XOM COUNSELOR ON JANUARY 18 AGAIN CALLED ON MANAGER OF COLOMBIAN COFFEE FEDERATION, ARTURO GOMEZ JARAMILLO. GOMEX JARAMILLO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR USG VIEWS ON SPECIAL COFFEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNCIL MEETING WHICH, HE POINTED OUT, ARE NOT ENTIRELY INCONSISTENT WITH HIS OWN.

2. IN GOMEZ' OPINION, THE BEST APPROACH TO THE PRICE STABILIZATION QUESTION MIGHT BE TO FORM A SMALL WORKING GROUP WHICH WOULD STUDY THE MATTER AND REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT A LATER DATE. IF PRODUCERS AND

CONSUMERS CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON SOME KIND OF PRICE STABILIZATION FORMULA, EXECUTIVE BOARD OF COUNCIL APPROVAL WOULD BE ALMOST PRO FORMA, THUS MINIMIZING THE RISKS OF ADVERSE PUBLICITY WHICH COULD LEAD TO FURTHER PRICE INCREASES. WHEN QUERIED ON SPECIFIC MEASURES, GOMEZ REPLIED THAT ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE THE IM-POSITION NOW OF THE PRICING MECHANISMS CONTAINED IN THE ICA. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY AGREEMENT ON THE PART OF THE PRODUCERS TO WORK TOWARDS A LESSENING OF THE PRICE SPIRAL WOULD HAVE TO BE RECIPROCATED BY THE CONSUMERS IN THE FORM OF A LONG TERM COMMITMENT TO AVOID-ING A DRAMATIC DROP IN COFFEE PRICES. GOMEZ ADDED THAT THE WORLD SUPPLY SITUATION MAY REALLY BE WORSE THAN CURRENT ESTIMATES IN THAT THE FIGURE HOR CARRY OVER STOCKS PROBABLY REFLECTS SOME DOUBLE COUNTING --COFFEE THAT HAS BEEN HARVESTED LATE IN THE PREVIOUS CROP YEAR BUT WHICH IS ALSO INCLUDED IN PROJECTED PRODUCTION FOR THE CURRENT CROP YEAR.

3. GOMEZ GUESSED THAT THE MEXICANS AND COSTA RICANS WOULD GO ALONG WITH THE WORKING GROUP APPROACH AND, EVENTUALLY, THE BRAZILIANS ALSO. HE IS LESS SURE OF COOPERATION FROM THE AFRICANS SINCE, IN HIS OPINION, ANGOLA AND UGANDA FEEL THEY HAVE LITTLE TO LOSE FROM A CONTINUING INCREASE IN COFFEE PRICES. SANCHEZ

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Subject: PROPOSED SPECIAL COFFEE COUNCIL MEETING TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CO, (GOMEZ JARAMILLA, ARTURO)

To: STATE Type: TE

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